

Quick Highlights of Older Americans Act Amendments of 2006

- **Authorization levels for the National Family Caregiver Support Program** and the Title VI caregiver program were raised, although not as high as the Senate recommended. The NFCSP authorization level would rise to \$187 million and the **Native American caregiver program** would rise to \$7.9 million by 2011. The bill expanded eligibility for older adults caring for adult children and the House provision on caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer's disease.
- The House approach integrating the **Choices for Independence** initiative throughout the Act was taken, instead of Senate's demonstration grant in Title IV.
- Did not include the House provision allowing providers to distribute **multi-vitamin mineral supplements** at congregate meal sites, but added a new section expressing the Sense of Congress on older adult nutrition with supportive language regarding supplements.
- Many of the **Senate's more generous Title IV provisions** were included, such as grants to improve transportation services for older adults, deliver mental health screening and treatment services for older individuals, support community innovations for aging in place, promote technology-based services and encourage multigenerational and civic engagement activities.
- **Title V** was renamed ("Older American Community Service Employment Program"). Much of the Senate approach prevailed, but some provisions were adjusted to meet the House's concerns. The final bill:
 - Maintains the current eligibility age of 55 or older;
 - Establishes an overall grantee average participation cap of 27 months with a waiver that allows up to a 36-month average participation rate;
 - Maintains the dual nature of the program and includes a Sense of Congress that reinforces the integral role of the program in community service activities; and
 - Increases incrementally the required minimum percentage of participants in unsubsidized placements from 21 to 25 percent over the authorization period.
- The Senate's extensive **elder justice** language was largely retained, but there would not be a separate office within Administration on Aging for elder justice issues. Instead an individual will be tasked with heading up the agency's efforts in this area.